

# REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech to tell people what somebody said or thought in the past, or what happened. But be careful! Tenses change only when the time and speaker are different.

TENSE CHART	DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
PRESENT SIMPLE-PAST SIMPLE	I <b>work</b> in Paris	He said he <b>worked</b> in Paris
PRESENT CONTINUOUS-PAST CONT.	I <b>am working</b>	He said he <b>was working</b>
PAST SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I <b>worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b> .
PAST CONTINUOUS-PAST PERFECT CONT	I <b>was working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>
PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE-PAST PERFECT	I <b>have worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b>
PRESENT PERF. CONT-PAST PERFECT CONT	I <b>have been working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>
PAST PERFECT-NO CHANGE	I <b>had worked</b>	He said he <b>had worked</b>
PAST PERFECT CONT-NO CHANGE	I <b>had been working</b>	He said he <b>had been working</b>

## OTHER VERB FORMS

### WILL-WOULD

I **will** work -He said he **would** work.

### CAN-COULD

I **can** sing -He said he **could** sing.

### MUST-HAD TO

I **must** work -He said he **had to** work.

### MAY-MIGHT

**May** I help you? -He asked if he **might** help me.

### SHALL-SHOULD

What **shall** I do? -He asked what he **should** do.

## PRONOUNS SOMETIMES CHANGE

### BE CAREFUL!

Remember, pronouns sometimes change.  
Study these examples:

-Don't tell **him** -he said.

He asked me not to tell **him**. (no change)

-I like **you** -Mary told me.

Mary told me that she liked **me**. (change)



## TIME REFERENCES

### DIRECT SPEECH    INDIRECT SPEECH

Now

Then

Today

That day

Here

There

This

That

This week

That week

Tomorrow

The following/next day

Next week

The following/next week

Yesterday

The previous day

The day before

Ago

Previously/before

Two days ago

Two days previously/before

Tonight

That night

Last Saturday

The previous Saturday

Next Saturday

The Saturday before

The following Saturday

The next Saturday

The Saturday after

That Saturday



## TELL

### TELL + PERSONAL OBJECT

We tell somebody

-Tina told **me** to phone her.

-My sister told **us** not to wake her up in the morning.

## SAY

### SAY + TO + OBJECT

-He never **said** that **to me**.

### TO REPORT

-He **said** he was exhausted

-Tom **said** he had done it.

## ASK

### OBJECT + INFINITIVE

### TO REQUEST

-He asked **me to** translate it.

### TO QUESTION

Ask **her** if she likes tea.

### EXERCISE 1 Rewrite the sentences in reported speech



- 1-He was studying yesterday. She said \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-I will go to the party. He told me \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-Mary can't stand mean people. He said \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-I must call my sister tomorrow. He said \_\_\_\_\_
- 5-I don't like coffee. She told me \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-Please, do me a favour. She asked \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-What shall I do about it? He asked \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-I have forgotten his number. She said \_\_\_\_\_
- 9-May I sit here? She asked if \_\_\_\_\_
- 10-I have been waiting for ages. She said \_\_\_\_\_
- 11-Tim works in an office. He told me \_\_\_\_\_
- 12-I have been to Paris twice. She said \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-My husband is in Poland. She told me \_\_\_\_\_
- 14-I won't do the shopping tomorrow. He said \_\_\_\_\_
- 15-Neil has already seen this film. She said \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-Gloria is sitting in her room now. He said \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-I don't go to parties. She told \_\_\_\_\_
- 18-I have been working in the garden. She said \_\_\_\_\_

### EXERCISE 2 Choose the correct option.

When I **saw/seen** Mary at the office **this/that** morning, she wasn't looking very well. In fact she **had looked/looked** a bit tired. I **tell/asked** her what the matter **is/was** with her but she wouldn't **tell/say** me. I **wanted/had been wanting** to know what was going on so I **ask/asked** Phil but he **didn't/wasn't** know, either. Two hours later, at about ten o'clock, we **met/were meeting** at the canteen to have a cup of coffee. But Mary **didn't/wasn't** order anything to drink. I knew she loved coffee so that was quite strange. When I asked her why she **wasn't/didn't** want anything to drink she said she **didn't have/wasn't having** her wallet. Her husband **had been taking/had taken** it. I **said/asked** her how she **was coming/had come** to work and she said that as she didn't have any money at all she **come/came** on foot. So that's why she **is/was** so tired! She lived in a nearby town which was ten kilometers away! No wonder why she **is/was** exhausted!

### EXERCISE 3 Change the time reference.

Sometimes more than one answer is correct.

- 1-Sally is leaving today.**  
He said Sally was leaving \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-He visited London last week.**  
He said he had visited London \_\_\_\_\_
- 3-We had an argument last night.**  
He said they'd had an argument \_\_\_\_\_
- 4-I'm not eating now.**  
He said he wasn't eating \_\_\_\_\_
- 5-Jimmy is coming next week.**  
He said Jimmy was coming \_\_\_\_\_
- 6-I forgot my key yesterday.**  
He said he'd forgotten his key \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-I'll call you tomorrow.**  
He said he would call me \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-I don't live here anymore.**  
He said he didn't live \_\_\_\_\_ anymore.
- 9-I'm meeting Phil tonight.**  
She said she was meeting Phil \_\_\_\_\_